

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A burner with a plurality of fingers, comprising:
  - a burner head;
  - a base supporting said plurality of base fingers around an opening through which gas flows from a fuel source to said burner head, each of said base fingers extending outwardly relative to said opening with each said base finger having an interior that is not in communication with said opening such that, when said base is mounted in a fixed position with respect to a cooktop surface of ~~the~~ a counter top, ~~wherein~~ fluid leakage between ~~said base and an interior of the cooktop and the surroundings of the cooktop via one of said base fingers~~ is substantially foreclosed;
  - said burner head having burner head fingers corresponding in number to said plurality of base fingers of said base and having a peripheral wall with a second plurality of ports positioned along both sides of the peripheral wall of each one of said plurality of burner head fingers, said burner head being in communication with said opening of said base for the flow of gas from a fuel source to said burner head;
  - said second plurality of ports formed continuously and substantially evenly spaced around each of said burner head fingers formed in said burner head and each of said ports formed as a slot in an upper portion of said peripheral wall of said burner head;
  - a cap having a plurality of overlapping fingers corresponding in number to said plurality of burner head fingers and having a lip extending laterally beyond said peripheral wall of said burner head; and

a plurality of flame vents connecting adjacent ports along said peripheral wall of said burner head.

2. (Previously Presented) The invention as defined in claim 1 wherein each vent includes a recess, formed in said cap, positioned intermediate adjacent ports.
3. (Previously Presented) The invention as defined in claim 2 wherein said recess includes an expanded transfer area at an intermediate point between said adjacent ports.
4. (Previously Presented) The invention as defined in claim 2 wherein said recess is formed in said cap and bounded by a protruding lip.
5. (Previously Presented) The invention as defined in claim 4 wherein said lip comprises a continuous wall along each said finger.
6. (Previously Presented) The invention as defined in claim 5 wherein said lip is scalloped laterally around said wall on an interior side thereof.
7. (Currently Amended) A burner for a cooktop comprising:  
at least one upper member;  
a base for mounting said burner in a cooktop, said base supporting ~~said~~ a plurality of fingers around an opening defined therein through which gas flows to a burner head for ignition and burning thereof, each of said fingers extending outwardly relative to said opening and having an interior that is not in communication with said opening such that, when said base is mounted in a fixed position with respect to a cooktop surface of the counter top, ~~wherein fluid leakage between said base~~

and an interior of the cooktop and the surroundings of the cooktop via one of said base fingers is substantially foreclosed;

said at least one upper member defining at least in part a plurality of ports on each side of a plurality of fingers;

said plurality of ports formed continuously and substantially evenly spaced around each of said fingers and each of said ports formed as a slot in an upper portion of said upper member;

a first plurality of splines projecting from said base adjacent said opening therein;

a second plurality of splines formed around the periphery of a stem carried by at least one upper member; and

an indexer carried by at least one of said base and said stem limiting insertion of said stem to at least one predetermined alignment, said indexer aligning said at least one upper member in said at least one predetermined alignment with said base, said indexer including said first plurality of splines and a said second plurality of splines, said first plurality of splines and said second plurality of splines interlocking with one another in said at least one predetermined alignment.

8-9 (Canceled)

10. (Previously Presented) The invention as defined in claim 7 wherein said base includes an igniter element and wherein said predetermined alignment positions said igniter element adjacent one of said ports.

11. (Previously Presented) The invention as defined in claim 7 wherein said at least one member includes a burner head having said plurality of fingers with a peripheral wall enclosing a gas path and including said plurality of port openings.

12. (Currently Amended) A cooktop burner comprising:

a body having a plurality of fingers extending outwardly from a central body portion, said body comprising:

a burner head having a central wall, and a peripheral wall on the central wall including a plurality of openings forming ports; said plurality of openings forming ports formed continuously and substantially evenly spaced around said central wall and each of said ports formed as a slot only in an upper portion of said peripheral wall;

a base including a head support for said head, and a support for an igniter, said base supporting said plurality of fingers around an opening in said central body portion through which gas flows between the interior of a counter top and said burner head, each of said fingers extending outwardly relative to said opening and having an interior that is not in communication with said opening such that, when said base is mounted in a fixed position with respect to a cooktop surface of the counter top, fluid leakage between ~~said base and an interior of the cooktop~~ and the surroundings of the cooktop via one of said base fingers is substantially foreclosed and said head support includes a first indexer including a plurality of splines for limiting insertion of said head to at least one predetermined alignment with respect to said igniter support; and

a burner cap including a covering wall positioned over said peripheral wall, a support for carrying said head on said head support, said support including a second indexer for aligning said head at a predetermined alignment with respect to said head support.

13-14 (Canceled)

15. (New) The invention as defined in claim 1 wherein each of said base fingers is configured as a raised elongated finger formation and said base is a generally planer structure having a top surface and bottom surface, the base includes a central opening defining a passage

between the top and bottom surfaces and wherein the central opening of the base is sealed to and in fluid communication with a fuel gas mixture supply passage, wherein the raised elongated finger formations extend upward from the top surface of the base, wherein each of the raised elongated finger formations define an interior open space defining an elongated opening along the length of each of the elongated finger formations on the bottom surface of the generally planar base, and wherein each of the elongated finger formations extend in a direction radially outward from the central opening and the interior open space and elongated opening do not communicate with the passage defined by the central opening of the base, whereby when the base is mounted on a cooking surface of a cooktop and the central opening of the base is aligned with a cooking surface opening through which the fuel gas mixture supply passage extends from an interior space location within the cooktop and located below the cooking surface, generally planar structure sized to extend radially outward of the cooking surface opening, whereby fluid leakage through the cooking surface opening and the interior space of the cooktop is substantially foreclosed by said base.